

# Getting Started using the Research Cycle

## # 1 - Get organized

- **Designated place** to work (desk, computer, work space)
- **Box** to keep all information in with **File folders** for ea. family name, notes, handouts, sources, etc.
- **3-ring binders** w/ dividers are especially nice for official documents and photos

## # 2 Complete your own **pedigree chart**

(this is your map, reference, baseline, etc.)

- Four generations - record you as #1  
    parents as 2 & 3;  
    grandparents 4, 5, 6, & 7  
    g-grandparents 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13

## #3 (optional) Choose **computer database program** and enter your pedigree ( and all other information as you get it).

Purchase or free **basic** download

Programs are similar--choose the one you like best

## # 4 Complete a **Family Group Sheet** with as much information as possible.

Need one sheet for each couple on your pedigree sheet

Mom & Dad at top (#2 &3 from pedigree chart), children below

**Record sources** for all information on bottom lines

# Using the Research Cycle

Learn more at [FamilySearch.org/Learn tab/Wiki](http://FamilySearch.org/Learn/tab/Wiki).

Enter "Research Process" & "Research Cycle"

## Step 1 - Identify known family Information

- Talk to relatives -- especially older ones
- Gather histories, journals, books, photos,
- **FIND OUT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE**
  - o [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org). Search/genealogies
  - o [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) / Search Public Member Trees (free at MFSL)
  - o Google - Name search(remember - This is often second hand info - must be verified w/ sources)

## Step 2 - Decide Information Wanted About family

- Select **one individual** or family to research
- Identify what you need to know (Research objective)
- Prepare one **Research Log** for each objective

## Step 3 -Select Records to Search

- Identify **category** of records to search  
Exp: Vital Records, Immigration, Land, Probate, Military, Cemeteries, etc.  
(See [www.mesafsl.org /websites/websites](http://www.mesafsl.org/websites/websites) by category for suggestions)
- Identify **specific records** to search
- Exp: [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), Google, Find A Grave, etc.
- Make a **research plan** and **record it** on your Research Log  
(See [MesaFSL.org/Websites](http://MesaFSL.org/Websites) for suggestions & links to records to search)

## Step 4 - Obtain and Search the Records

- Obtain, View, search, organize results

## Step 5 Use the information

- **Record results** on your Research Log
- Examine, organize, share, etc.  
(**Information found will determine where to look next**)

## Need help?

[www.mesafsl.org](http://www.mesafsl.org)

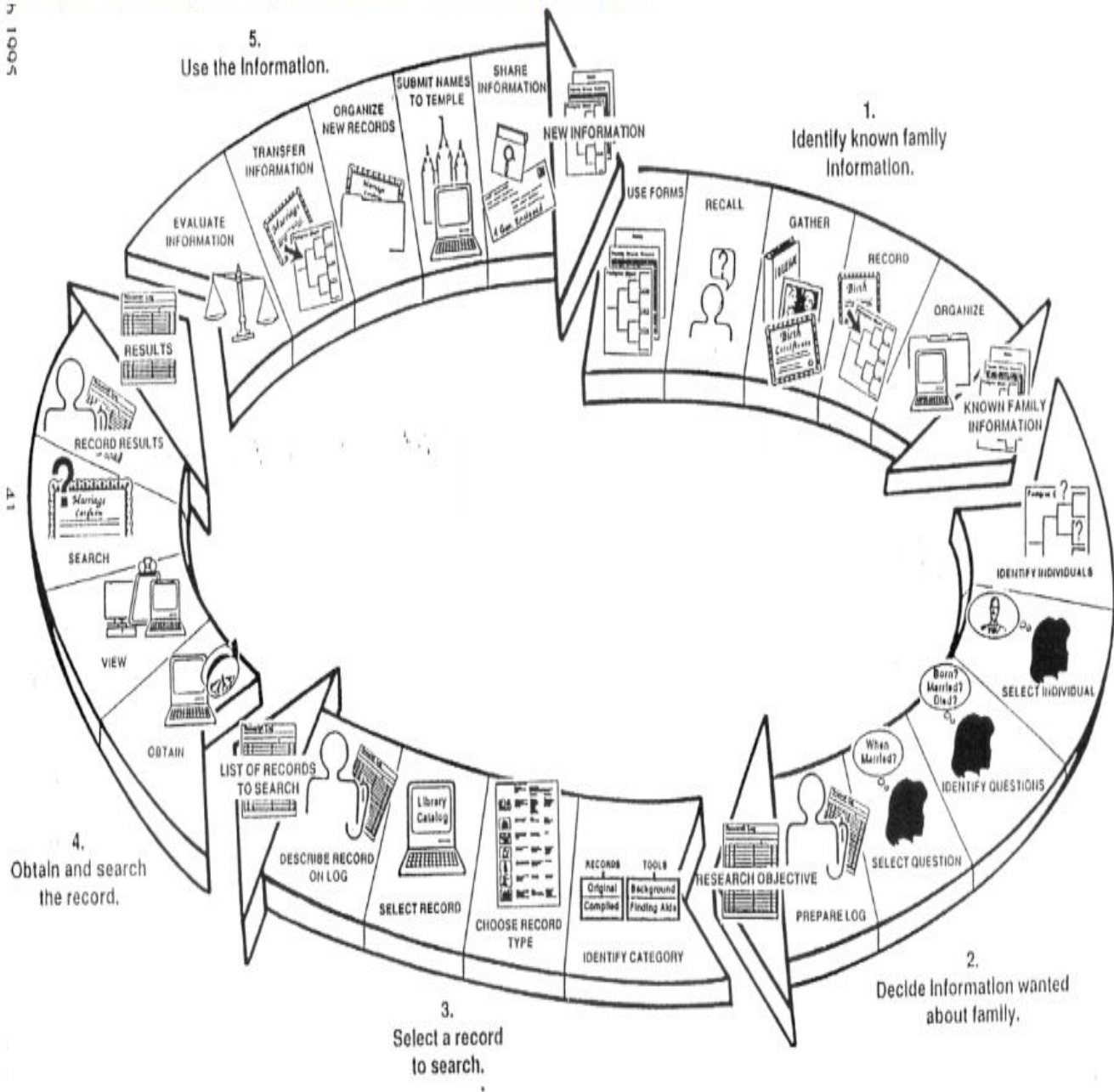
[www.familysearch.org/search/wiki](http://www.familysearch.org/search/wiki)

Mesa Family History Library missionaries & volunteers

**NOTE:** All forms are available at: [MesaFSL.org/Forms](http://MesaFSL.org/Forms) & Aids  
(Choice of blank (PDF) or Interactive forms)

# Research Cycle

Principles of Family History Research ➔ The Research Process



[www.FamilySearch.org/Search/Wiki/Research Process](http://www.FamilySearch.org/Search/Wiki/Research%20Process)